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East Yorkshire
Feb. 20. 1896

Gentlemen

During the year 1895 - the following cases of infectious diseases came under my notice. The total number was 80, which is in excess of last year, but the number of deaths is small, being only 4. Scarlatina: - There have been rather a large number of cases of this disease, 62 in all, but no death resulted - They are distributed as follows: - Howden Sub-district 20. Butwick do. 1. Wallingfen do. 31. - Though the number is relatively large, it must be remembered that in some instances as many as 6 members of 1 family were attacked at the same time - The outbreak made it's appearance in March in the Wallingfen Sub-district & continued through April, May & June, subsequently spreading to adjoining villages in Howden Sub-district - In April Scalby School was closed on my Certificate - There was only 1 case in Butwick Sub-district, which was imported from Scarborough York - As usual the chief factor, in spreading such an outbreak, appears to me to be, the carelessness of parents & others, in allowing children while still in an infectious state to mix freely with their neighbours & this is done in spite of instructions given to the contrary - Diphtheria: - 15 cases in Howden Sub-district - 1 case in Holme do. No deaths resulted. This number is in excess of those that have occurred in any year previously. A difference of opinion exists among medical men, as to what cases are true diphtheria or otherwise, makes me feel that in these cases, a Bacteriological examination only will afford satisfactory information, as to the real nature of the disease

In some of the above cases the premises were in a very unsatisfactory state as regards drainage &c, these matters have received attention - Most of the cases occurred during the months of Oct. Nov. & Dec.
Rembranous Croup: - 2 cases both in Howden Sub-District, neither proved fatal -
Enteric Fever: — 3 cases in the whole District, 1 fatal - This case occurred in Howden, the premises on examination, were found to have an unused sink indoors, which communicated directly with a street drain, this has since been remedied. A 2nd case was reported at Staddlethorpe, here the water from Cisterns, was found to be totally unfit for drinking purposes - a 3rd case occurred at Hotham Carrs; there had been a case here, about a year before. & the water supply was then found to be contaminated, this Year must be again blamed for the 2nd outbreak - To all the above cases, as is my custom, I visited & inspected the premises. Disinfectants were supplied with printed instructions where it was necessary fumigation was also carried out — Puerperal fever. There were 2 cases of this disease during the year - 1 in Bubwith & 1 in Wallingfen, both proved fatal - Cases of this fever are very rare in the District. Erysipelas:- 5 Cases in the whole district, 1 fatal - Distributed as follows: Howden Sub-district 2 - Bubwith do. 1 - Holme do. 1 - Wallingfen do. 1 - No Cases of Influenza came under my notice. There were a few cases of Measles; but Mumps was very prevalent during the past year — I visited & made systematic inspections of several parts of the District, including. Howden North Cave, Staddlethorpe, Eastrington, Hemingbro, Ellerton &c. paying especial attention to that part which formerly was in S. Cave & Wallingfen Local Board District.

The Villages of Newport & Broomfleet with a number of isolated farm-houses, constitute the inhabited portion of this District. As is usual throughout the whole district, the chief difficulties in these villages, appear to be to provide proper water-supply & drainage. The surface of the land is so low, that it is very difficult to find any fall for drains, & where wells are sunk, especially in the vicinity of the Market Weighton Canal, (near which both villages lie) the water is generally brackish & unfit for drinking purposes. At Broomfleet the main water-supply is derived from a stream or Beck, which is formed by the North Cave Beck being tapped, at Boss-bridge, where a sprout or shuttle joins the Beck: the water is then conducted through what appear to be ordinary field dykes to the Village & on to the Market Weighton Canal. A sample of this water was examined & pronounced to be "filthily polluted & totally unfit for drinking purposes". This is not to be wondered at, when we are aware that the N. Cave Beck receives sewage from that Village, & further down of the foldyards in Broomfleet also drain into the Beck. This matter is receiving your attention, as well as being considered by the Sanitary Committee of the East Riding Co. Council. A few of the houses have cisterns for soft-water & some collect the rain in barrels. The drainage is very meagre. At Newport I found many premises in an insanitary condition. Some of the houses are supplied with cisterns for rain-water, others are dependent on barrels to collect the same. There are a few shallow wells where the water is brackish, & in a dry season many of the inhabitants are compelled to use the water from the Market Weighton Canal. The danger of using this water may be imagined.

when I inform you that this canal also receives sewage from the Village. Two Lodging-Houses that were in a deplorable state were closed by your orders, until put in a satisfactory condition. The Inspector reports:- That during the last 12 months, he has made periodical inspection of all Slaughter-houses, which are 22 in number, & finds them on the whole kept in a fairly satisfactory condition. The same applies to the common Lodging-Houses, except 2 at Newlark, where sanitary improvements are in progress. The old Derwent & Howden town cess-pools have been thoroughly cleansed out, & tides taken in when requisite. Also improvements have been made to the main sewers in Swine-lane, Angel-lane, Church Alley & Lilly Lane. Where having been partly taken up & relaid; the old Brick-sewer which crosses Flat gate, was found to be in a very dilapidated condition, this has been taken up & replaced by new pipes. At Ellerton the main sewer which runs through the Village, has been properly cleansed out. Also the Beck at Bromfleet, which is the principal water supply to that Village. At Barmby a new drain has been laid from the main-sewer, to connect a property on the other side of the Street. One dwelling-house in Howden, 1 in Hemingbro' & 2 in N. Cave, were closed as unfit for human habitation, & three at Cave have had the required alterations & improvements carried out & are re-occupied. The following is a tabular statement of Cases:-

Overcrowding	1	Cess-pools stopped -	10	Accumulation of manure.	9
Wells Condemned	3	Insufficient Water Supply.	6	Houses unfit.	4
Foul Ditches	16	Filthy houses.	2	Want of privy accommodation	4
New houses Inspected.	4	Pigsties (improper).	7		
Slaughter houses Inspected.	22	Deputations with-visits	22	Total	185
Common Lodging-houses Do.	4	Do. privies	36		
		Do. Drains	35		

The whole number of deaths for the year 1895, was 218, or at the rate of 17.1 per 1000 of population which is very little above the average for several years past. The whole number of births was 363 which equals a rate of 28.4 per 1000. The Infant mortality, that is of children under 1 year, equals 168.0 per 1000 of Births registered -

I am, Gentlemen
Your Obd't Serv't
Victor H. Fisher
M.O.H.

To the Howden District Council.